

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING****1. Call to Order**

The January meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee was held on Tuesday,

January 18, 2005 in the gymnasium of the Hanaford School. Chair Vincent Bradley called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Also present were: Vice chair Paul Martin, Dr. Al Ross, Steven Gregson, Merrill Friedemann, Sue Cienki and William Day. Dr. Michael Jolin, Superintendent, Helen O'Hara, Assistant Superintendent and Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration were also present.

Pamela Testoni, grade four teacher at Hanaford School, addressed the School Committee as a parent, teacher and taxpayer. She spoke about administrative problems with poor planning, mismanagement of funds, and lack of a contingency plan and noted that teachers have little to do with this. Mrs. Testoni mentioned all the extra things teachers do such as serving on committees writing standards based curriculum that has served as an exemplar in the state, and the voluntary services they have provided which are paid positions in other systems.

Bonnie DiMeo, special education department chair who is in her 28th year also spoke about her responsibilities in recruiting and hiring

special education staff. She noted that the applicants have diminished significantly and East Greenwich is no longer able to compete because they are at the bottom half of the state median salary scale.

Domenic Giusti, sixth grade teacher at Hanaford, stated that this is his 9th year in East Greenwich and his concern is that two of his student teachers have opted not to apply in East Greenwich, not only because of salary but because of respect.

2. Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2004 and January 4, 2005 School Committee meetings.

4. Recognitions

Fall Sports athletes and coaches were recognized for their achievements as follows:

Girls' Varsity Tennis Undefeated State Champions- coaches Marc Brocato and Rob Petrucci. Captains: Julie Bowerman and Amanda Glantz,

Football, Undefeated State Champions-Coaches, Bob Corr, Vincent Ucci, Joseph Ucci.

Players: Ben Stralka, Steve Donlon, Erik Turgeon, Andrew Judd, Tom Ahrens, Brandon Michaels, Jordan Brady

Football Cheerleaders, Coach-Laurie Ratigan

Field Hockey-State Finalist and sportsmanship award - Coaches,

Leah Miguel and Kerri Valentine. Kim MacDonald-1st All Division, and Sara Casey, All State

All State Athlete-Cornelius McCaffrey, boys' cross country,

All Division Athletes- Julie Bowerman, 2nd team Tennis; Sarah Gouveia- Girls' Soccer; Nick Skoly-boys' soccer; Steve Fielding-Boys' Soccer; Annie McCarthy-1st team all division and 1st team all class; Megan Estes-1st team all division and 3rd team all state; Christina Petrone-1st team all division.

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Mr. Robert Corr, football coach, thanked the School Committee for their recognitions of these young men and women. He noted that these students are the athletes they are because of the teachers they have.

5. Attendance Reports

Attendance Reports were accepted for file.

6. Communications

There were no School Committee communications.

7. Financial Reports

8.2 Out-of-state field trip

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve the field trip to Connecticut

in June for Cole Middle School. The motion passed unanimously.

8.3 Amending of School Committee By-laws

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the amended School

Committee by-laws with some changes noted. The motion passed unanimously.

8.4 Amending of School Committee Procedures and Guidelines

Dr. Ross made a motion to table, which was seconded by Mr. Day and bring it back to the Committee

at the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

8.5 Formation of School Committee Finance and Personnel Committee

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve the formation of the

finance advisory committee and table the formation of the personnel committee. The motions passed unanimously.

8.6 School Committee Visits

Mr. Martin stated that he has an intention to visit all schools and provide feedback.

8.7 Appointment of School Committee Attorney

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to

re-evaluate and ask for bids for a school committee attorney. Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to add this item to Executive Session.

8.8 Bid Awards

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the bid award for stage curtains. Mr. Gregson then made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to table this item until the Oversight Committee looks it over.

9. Reports to the School Committee

9.1 Public Hearing on school budget

Mrs. Crawford stated that an amendment to the charter states that a public hearing is needed by March 1. It was decided that this public hearing is to be held on February 15th at the School Committee meeting.

9.2 Audit Concerns

It was noted that the prior School Committee approved the receipt of grant funds to establish a

position through the Principal's Residency Network. Dr. Jolin stated that a question was raised by the auditors as to accounting mechanisms. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded

by Mr. Day to table this discussion to the first meeting in February. The motion passed unanimously.

9.3 Administrator's Evaluation Status

Dr. Jolin noted that all administrative evaluations will be completed by January 15, 2005. Mrs.

Friedemann asked for copies and Dr. Jolin responded that he needs to get an advisory from the R.I. Department of Education.

9.4 School Traffic Report and Related Issues

Dr. Jolin noted that an outside consultant is performing a traffic analysis and it will be ready in

two weeks. Mr. Gregson asked that the analysis be done for all schools.

10. Other Business Proper to Come Before the Committee-none

11. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Martin noted that if teachers have a problem such as lack of heat in classrooms, they should call him.

12. School Committee Reminder List

Mr. Bradley stated that things tend to get put on the back burner so it is a way for the Superintendent to keep up.

Public Comments

Peter McLaren thanked Mr. Martin for coming into the classroom, but he stated that the process should go through a Superintendent and maintenance request. He also noted that principals send a list to maintenance and the work is not getting done.

Mrs. Judi Cavanaugh, a parent, teacher, negotiator and resident, asked why Dr. Jolin has not been invited to negotiations.

Adam Scott, Science teacher at Cole Middle School, noted that elementary, middle and high school teachers were part of moving Cole to a middle school, and the School Committee would see award winning teachers and the best coaches in the state.

Pamela Testoni invited the School Committee to come to their rooms to see what teachers do every day. She added that School Committee and teachers should be a team and start working together.

Mr. William Behrends, a taxpayer stated that he lives in East Greenwich because of the school system. He also noted that the success of East Greenwich is from the parents, children and staff. Mr. Behrends added that the reputation of East Greenwich is being threatened. He noted that School Committee members should commit and support.

Pam Mateer stated that she has lived in town for 30 years and came back so she could give back to her community. She stated that the town has the best teachers and school system and they deserve the best contract.

Robert Vespia asked about the windows at the high school, noting that the school department has people in positions in the school district and they should be made to do their jobs, if not, something should be done about it.

Chris Carr, physical education/health teacher at Frenchtown School, feels that the School Committee is missing the point, and teachers are being represented. She added that teachers make a difference,

and we have parents that care, but it is sad to think they are not appreciated.

Colleen Fugere, a parent, stated that she moved back here for the school system and teachers have suffered long enough, they deserve a contract.

13. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46 5(a) (2) Teacher Negotiations

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mrs. Friedemann, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to adjourn and go into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,